

Sub A3 1. A business method for the direct supply for containerized liquid coating product inclusive of a plurality of particular, non-standard, colors by a supplier remote from a consumer, said business method comprising the steps of:

placing by at least one consumer of a customer order directly with a remote supplier specifying customer order information including indication of at least one liquid coating base, a color, a quantity, delivery address and identification of the customer;

entering said customer order information into a customer order subsystem comprised of software maintained on a computer;

compiling said customer order information with a computer and processing the results of this compilation to yield production parameters;

operating, in observance of said production parameters yielded by said production subsystem, a containerized liquid coating production line capable of producing a plurality of particular, non-standard, color containerized liquid coatings with a precision in the addition of colorant to liquid coating base superior to the precision readily obtainable by a conventional local retailer;

assembling containerized liquid coating product resulting from said production line fulfilling at least one individual customer order and packaging the resulting assemblage as required for shipment;

transporting each said assemblage of containerized liquid coating product fulfilling each said customer order to the delivery address specified by the consumer in placing the customer order;

whereby each said consumer obtains delivery of containerized liquid coating product directly to a specified address which may be inclusive of particular, non-standard, colors of superior consistency with regard to color without need for the addition of colorant and by a local ~~retailer to standard volume containers of liquid coating product.~~

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Sub A27

Docket No. 100-00000

1. The method of claim 1 wherein said containerized liquid coating product is containerized in standard volume containers.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein fulfillment of said customer order includes partial filling of one of said standard volume containers.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said containerized liquid coating product is containerized in non-standard volume expandable containers.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said non-standard volume expandable containers are of molded plastic construction.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein said non-standard volume expandable containers possess a collar about an aperture which collar is gripped during operation of said production line.

7. The method of claim 1 further including the step of identifying customer order information upon containers holding containerized liquid coating product.

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8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of identifying customer order information upon said containers is effected with the attachment of a label to each said container bearing a digital code readable by a scanner.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of identifying customer order information upon said containers is effected with the attachment of a label to each said container bearing printed ~~customer order information~~.

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10. The method of claim 7 wherein said customer order information is comprised of at least one of the group comprised of color of liquid coating product, customer name, delivery date, quantity of product in order, number of containers for each liquid coating product in the order.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the operation of said production line includes the addition of blended liquid coating base to an empty container.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said blended liquid coating base is obtained from a manufacturer in large containers ranging in volume from fifty-five gallon barrels through railroad tank cars inclusive of 1,000 liter totes.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein a pipeline is utilized for the transfer of liquid coating base from said large containers to a tank from which said liquid coating base is dispensed.

14. The method of claim 11 further including the step of identifying the type of liquid coating base added upon the container.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein the operation of said production line includes the addition of colorant to the blended liquid coating base.

16. The method of claim 15 further including the step of identifying the color resulting from the colorant added upon the container.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of placing an order by a consumer directly with a supplier of liquid coating product is conducted with use of telecommunications.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of placing an order by a consumer directly with a supplier of liquid coating product is conducted with use of a telephone connected to a public telephone exchange.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of entering said customer order into a customer order subsystem is accomplished by supplier personnel.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of placing an order by a consumer directly with a supplier of liquid coating product is conducted with use of facsimile transmission through a telephone exchange.

21. The method of claim 17 wherein the customer order subsystem and the production subsystem are both maintained on the same computer.

22. The method of claim 17 wherein the customer order subsystem is maintained one computer and the production subsystem is maintained on a different computer.

23. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of placing an order by a consumer directly with a remote supplier of liquid coating product is conducted with use of the internet.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein an internet device is utilized to place an order directly with a remote supplier of liquid coating product.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the step of placing an order by a consumer directly with a supplier of liquid coating product is conducted with use of a dedicated terminal with internet access only to a web site maintained by the supplier.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the step of entering said customer order into a customer order subsystem is accomplished by the computer maintaining the customer order subsystem.

27. The method of claim 23 wherein the customer order subsystem and the production subsystem are both maintained on the same computer.

28. The method of claim 23 wherein the customer order subsystem is maintained one computer and the production subsystem is maintained on a different computer.

29. The method of claim 23 wherein said web site provides product information assisting in the selection of liquid coating product inclusive of the identification of a plurality of particular, non-standard colors.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein said product information assisting in the selection of liquid coating product includes liquid base characteristics.

31. The method of claim 23 wherein said web site provides assistance in the selection liquid coating product appropriate to a given job as defined by information input by the consumer.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein said assistance in the selection of liquid coating product includes the recommendation of liquid coating base.

33. The method of claim 31 wherein said assistance in the selection of liquid coating product includes the calculation of appropriate volume for a given application as defined by consumer input.

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Containerized Liquid Coating Product
Direct Supply Business Method

6 April 2000

34. The method of claim 31 wherein said assistance in the selection of liquid coating product includes the suggestion of at least one particular, non-standard, color based upon digital input by said consumer, said digital input including but not limited to digital video input, digital photograph input and digital solid modeling input.